



THE DISCIPLES GUIDE TO HEALING

A Primer on Divine Healing.

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Ravens Voice Community Discipleship Ministry is designed to be an in home, community focused environment. Where fellow believers are discipled to make disciples. Our goal is to answer Jesus' commission and by doing so, return to a more biblical Christianity.

Ravens Voice Ministries

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The Disciples Guide to Healing:

Introduction:

If a disciple is one whose life is patterned after the example of Christ, then by extension a disciple does what Jesus did. While scripture reveals all that Jesus did (His deeds), scripture also reveals his specific commands to his followers. Once we have discovered the qualifications of discipleship we must naturally move on to the expectations of a disciple. Another of Christ's commands in addition to "The Great Commission" is found in Matthew 10:1-8. While this particular passage precedes evangelism to the gentiles we can see there are some basic concepts that remained unchanged even as the disciples' mission was expanded to the gentile nations. These being: Casting out demons, Healing, Preaching the kingdom, Raising the dead, and Cleansing the unclean (see also Mark 3:13-15, 6:7 & Luke 9:1).

For the purpose of this guide our sole focus is on the aspect of healing, that is to say, Divine healing.

Jesus ministry was characterized by not only what he taught (His words) but by his interactions with people – namely healing of the sick. It is Jesus healing "method" that we wish to fully explore. For if we are to be His obedient disciples, if we are to do what He did, then we must have full revelation of what healing is as opposed to sickness, the need for healing in this age, and our ability to minister healing with the same spiritual power as Jesus. It is only when we see with clarity the example set before us that we can follow the ways of our master.

What is sickness?

Before we can discuss healing we must first examine the very thing that opposes healing. Which is sickness. Understanding exactly what sickness is and its origins both natural and spiritual will help us to not only see why some are bound by infirmity, but also aid us (in the power of Christ) to see them set free.

We will define sickness as Sickness is incipient death, or death in progress. Incipient: beginning to exist or appear, of relating to or occurring at the start of something. Death: the act of dying, termination of life, a permanent cessation of all vital bodily functions. We are all familiar to some extent of the myriad of physical sickness. Problems may involve the body as a whole or be confined to certain cells and tissues. We all know someone who suffers some sort of physical sickness, it may even be ourselves. What I want to focus on is not the physical sickness itself but the root of the sickness; I want to expose the spiritual side of sickness that gets often overlooked.

Some may ask: "I'm a Christian, I believe in Christ for my salvation, why do I even have to deal with sickness"? Well primarily because we live on the earth, because we are bound to the flesh that was born into sin. When Adam and Eve sinned their actions allowed sin to enter the world. If you look at the deceptions satan uses they are all a perversion of what God does. Examples: God is truth; satan is the father of lies. God is the father of all life, satan is the author of death. As you can see when sin first entered the world it brought death with it and death brought its lower form sickness. *Romans 5:12 "Therefore, as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all sinned".*

Sickness is confined to our earthly existence; there is no sickness in heaven because satan has no dominion there. Isaiah 33:24 "And the men of Zion will not say, I am ill: for its people will have forgiveness for their sin". (This scripture is a reference to Jerusalem, but we know that heaven has also been called the New Jerusalem).

Whatever satan tries to do to us Jesus can prevent and correct. The way Christ defeated death and disease was by taking them upon himself and carrying them with him to the grave. The horrible blows Jesus endured bought a world without disease that we may take part in. so while satan has dominion over this earth for a time, we must remember that as Christians we are not of this world; we are joint heirs in Christ's kingdom, a kingdom free from all forms of sickness. So while our physical bodies dwell in enemy territory we do not have to be subject to the enemy and his devices.

If we take a closer look at sickness we can see that it is a form of bondage. Look at the following scriptures. *Acts 10:38 "even Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him"*. Jesus healed those that were oppressed of the devil, not merely sick. Oppression is the unjust or cruel exercise of power or authority, to weigh down or burden. By definition sickness is satanic oppression or bondage. Jesus himself calls sickness bondage. *Luke 13:11 "And look! There was a woman having a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and she was bent double and was not being able to straighten up to the completion" (vs16) "But this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan indeed bound eighteen years, it was necessary for her to be released from this bond on the day of the Sabbath, was it not?"* Jesus said that satan had bound the woman. He did not say that her physical infirmity bound her, but satan himself.

We must also take note of the reality that we live in a fallen world due to the entrance of sin. And so sickness is an unfortunate natural reality for us. Naturally speaking, sickness can stem from environmental factors such as un-sanitary living conditions or environments which contribute to disease. Waste and pollutants from industry which introduce toxins to the air, water, and earth are factors of the human existence. Dietary choices can be an influence on sickness. We live in an age where highly processed, low nutrition food is in many places the only option for individuals. These food choices weaken the body and make one more susceptible to certain kinds of illness.

Sickness can also be a spiritual manifestation. Sickness can start in the spirit realm and manifest itself in the natural realm. Another example, is found in *Luke 13:11 "A woman was there who had a spirit that had disabled her for eighteen years. She was hunched over and completely unable to stand up straight"*. Scripture records this woman as being bound by a spirit; this spirit had crippled her for eighteen years. Scripture specifically notes that it was a spirit that had bound her. This spirit in no way benefited her, and we know that the lord's only desire for us is prosperity. So where does one presume that this spirit came from?

We also know that sin can open the door for sickness to work in our lives. Failure to follow gods plan for our lives can lead us down a wayward lifestyle, a lifestyle of sin, it's this sin that opens the door to sickness. For example:

- Sexual sin leads to STD's, but following God's plan for marriage is protection from these diseases.
- Living by fear and not faith, when we live by fear this separates us from God and ushers in stress; Stress is linked to six of the leading causes of death (in western countries), heart disease, cancer, lung ailments, accidents, liver cirrhosis and suicide.
- Harboring a spirit of un-forgiveness, un-forgiveness causes distress to the central nervous system, the circulatory system, the muscular – skeletal system, the glandular system and the immune system. Harboring un-forgiveness prevents your body from being able to effectively fight off disease.

It is here where I feel many Christians may miss the mark, I believe we need to get more specific in our prayers for healing. If sickness and disease has a spiritual root cause then we must discern what that root is and cut it off. Then we may deal with its manifestations. One must deal with the source in prayer first, before we pray for the healing.

Common misconceptions regarding sickness.

There are some common misconceptions about sickness that we need to address before we can move on to the finer points concerning divine healing. Two of these are, That *God uses sickness to “teach” us*. And that *our sickness can bring God glory*. To some these misconceptions may seem strange, yet they are (along with many others) are perpetuated in religious circles, the very circles that should be going about healing the sick instead of creating doctrine that allows for sickness to reign in the lives of many.

Sickness as Gods teacher. This misconception often has its roots in a misunderstanding of Gods sovereignty as it relates to daily life. Knowing God is in control does not, and should not suggest that he allows or imparts sickness. If we discern properly God’s nature and character we will clearly see that he cannot impart sickness upon us and stay true to his word regarding himself. In Jerimiah 9:24 God says he practices steadfast love, and justice. How is afflicting people with an illness an exercise in justice?

We call God our heavenly father, yet what father would give an illness or disability to “teach” them? Given a natural context we see how absurd this thinking really is. Christs the atonement brings salvation and healing, yet this misconception would have us neglect our purchased healing. Scripture reveals the methods by which God teaches;

- His word (2 Timothy 3:16)
- Christs example – how He lived and what he taught.
- Gifts of the spirit - words of knowledge & prophecy (John 14:26)
- Ministers & servants - who perfect, equip and edify the saints.

If we understand that sickness came into the world at the fall of Adam, then we also know that sickness stems from satan himself. satan is *not* one of God’s servants, all true servants of our Lord are obedient to His will. God’s will does not go against his character, his character being such as to see us healed and whole both spiritually and physically. Sickness and all its manifestations do not contribute to God’s will or support an accurate representation of the father’s character. The only conclusion we can come to is that sickness does not have its root in God, it does not serve God, and often operates in a manner that is outside of God’s will and against His character. In no way could sickness be a “tool” by which the Father would instruct His children.

Another misconception about healing says that one can actually glorify God thru their sickness. Notice I said *through* their sickness, not in spite of. This belief says that one can bring glory to God by being sick, as if somehow their pain and suffering benefits the Father. This belief sends a message to believers and unbelievers alike, that God doesn’t care about His people enough to heal them; it evokes an image of an unwavering iron fisted dictator. Keep in mind the following questions; Firstly “If nobody told you that your illness was glorifying God would you still be as likely to tolerate it? Secondly, “If being sick glorifies God then why do we try to get better? Why aren’t we deliberately trying to contract every ailment known to man to the end result of our death, thus bringing God the ultimate glory? It sounds ridiculous doesn’t it? But many actually believe that their sickness somehow benefits God.

Let’s examine the story of Lazarus from the book of John. The story opens with news of Lazarus being ill. Let’s look at Jesus response to the news about his friend. *John 11:4 But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” John 11:14-15 Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, (15) and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”*

Jesus plainly tells his disciples that Lazarus has died, fully knowing that it will be an occasion for them to increase their faith in him. Notice the key word "through". The sickness did not bring the glory but was an occasion for Jesus to demonstrate his power and love. When Jesus finally makes it to Bethany we get another glimpse of his compassionate nature, *John 11:33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. John 11:35 Jesus wept. (36) So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"* When one is moved with compassion they want to change the negative circumstances of those around them. A man of compassion does not make someone sick only to heal them later. To do so is to act not out of love but selfishness; (so one may boast or feel self-important). Jesus reminds Martha that she would see God's glory if she believes. *John 11:40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"* If God's glory were in the sickness that led to Lazarus' death there would be no need to raise him from the dead, for God would already have gotten his glory. *John 11:41-44 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. (42) I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." (43) When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." (44) The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."*

This act is an example to all who were there of God's overwhelming presence in his son Jesus. The end result was that many began to believe in Jesus. Furthermore, sickness is a form of bondage or captivity and Jesus came to set the captives free. *Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,* (take special note of the last part of *John 11:44 "unbind him"*). The first step in releasing a prisoner is to remove their chains). *John 11:45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.* Lazarus was a specific example of Christ's authority and power.

The lesson we should draw from the story is this. We can rise from the death of sin to a new life in Christ. It is a symbol of the new life we can have when we submit to Christ. Lazarus was killed by sickness; Lazarus was raised from the dead by Jesus and became a walking witness of the divine power and calling of Jesus. The glory found in this story lies in the resurrection not in the sickness, in the manifestation of healing not in the suffering that Lazarus endured.

John 11:4 But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." I believe it was Jesus' own statements taken out of context that formed the foundation for this wrong doctrine. I don't believe that Jesus was referring to Lazarus' illness as being for the glory of God but the display of heavenly power that was manifested through him (Jesus), that glorified God. That being the case the conclusion we must draw is that it's not our sickness that glorifies God, but rather the manifestation of our healing that brings God glory. It reveals his love for us and demonstrates his power and authority to work in our lives. Therein lies his glory, not in that which hurts his people. We should only be content with what God gives us, sickness, suffering and pain doesn't come from God so there is no reason to be content with them. We are to be content with the promise of God's healing provision only, not the illness that is afflicting us. We must always remember that our strength to endure comes from the Lord.

As an aside; look at what exactly glory is, and in doing so well discover that in no way can sickness give God any glory.

The definition for glory is as follows:

- Great honor, praise, or renown, a position of widely recognized importance.
- A highly praiseworthy asset, something meriting the highest praise or regard.
- Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving offered in worship.
- Majestic beauty and splendor.
- A height of achievement.
- To rejoice proudly.

As we come to understand these attributes we will see they are all based in love; every time God has demonstrated his glory it was for the greater good. His desire is that we all might be saved, and learn to live a holy and righteous life. Sickness and its sufferings are contrary to his divine nature and play no part in the revelation of his glory, to us as individuals or to mankind as a whole.

If we look at these various attributes we will see that sickness has nothing to do with glory, God's or otherwise. Take cancer for example, would anyone consider it a highly praiseworthy asset? Or would we consider the onset of diabetes the height of achievement? But yet this mindset proposes to place sickness in the same category as things we aspire to, as things we highly regard as right and good. Once we understand the glory of God we will see that He does not make us sick, but He does get glory from our healing. Satan is the one who gets glory from our sickness. Satan cannot create anything; he can only pervert that which the Lord has created, (sickness is an attribute of death which is a perversion of life). Sickness glorifies Satan in that the sickness and its associated sufferings are a testament to Satan's perversion of God's life giving, healing, creative power.

Our lives are to be lived in such a way that all we do should bring glory to God's name. The deeper we explore God's motives for mankind we will come to realize that everything he does is based on his love for us. We would do well to remember that God is love. He loves us and only wishes for us to prosper. Suffering in our sickness is not in God's plan for our lives. And so the doctrine that our sickness somehow brings God glory must be rejected.

Disbelief that healing is for today.

Now that we understand what sickness is and where it comes from, we must also turn our attention to one more false doctrine. The disbelief that healing is for today (our generation and generations to come).

Satan wants us to be defeated, and one of the tools he uses are false doctrines. Satan wants to confuse and blind us from God's truth. You see, Satan cannot stop God's healing power, and he cannot stop us from using our authority in Christ to heal and be healed, unless we let him by believing the lies he tells us. Examining the root of this doctrine we find that criticism against faith healing stems from a Greek and rational worldview of scripture. This worldview gave birth to what we now call cessationism. Cessationism defined is the act of believing in or of a temporary or final ceasing. There are two main views on cessationism.

View 1.

The belief that all supernatural activity of an unusual or miraculous nature has ceased. Proponents of this view suggest the purpose of miracles was merely to confirm the ministry of those who first brought God's word thus there is no further need for miracles today.

View 2.

The belief that the miraculous gifts of the spirit among God's people have ceased. Those who hold this view suggest that miracles can happen today, but God stopped using believers as His agents (in the miraculous) at the close of the apostolic age.

These doctrines prevent so many of God's people from receiving a manifestation of healing in their lives. It also twists our perception of who God really is and his desire to heal us. Looking at the effects of disbelief as it relates to God's healing works we see unbelief in God's healing power cuts us off from receiving or granting healing manifestations. Although man cannot hope to stop God's creative miracles. During Jesus' time on earth he never stopped healing, but in certain areas the spirit of unbelief among the people was so strong that they were unable to receive from Him. God created us with free will, as free will agents we can choose to receive or reject what God has for us, He will not force anything upon us, even the healing that we may need. Unbelief doesn't stop salvation, but it stops you from receiving it, this is the same with healing. Unbelief prevents us from entering the promise land, the promise land is still there but we can't enter in. With healing, God's power is there but if we don't believe we can't use it or receive it.

There are also those who think that the spectacular gifts are only for the true spiritual masters, and that they come through a special relationship with God that is beyond the realm of ordinary Christians. Look at what James says:

James 1:6-7 Let him make his request in faith, doubting nothing; for he who has doubt in his heart is like the waves of the sea, which are troubled by the driving of the wind.7 Let it not seem to such a man that he will get anything from the Lord;

Let's examine the following passages and see the kind of people that Jesus himself healed.

Matthew 4:23-24 And Jesus went about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of disease and all manner of sickness among the people. 24 And the report of him went forth into all Syria: and they brought unto him all that were sick, holden with divers diseases and torments, possessed with demons, and epileptic, and palsied; and he healed them.

Every sick person in Galilee was a candidate for healing; he healed all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.

Matthew 14:34-36 And when they had crossed over, they came to the land, unto Gennesaret.35 And when the men of that place knew him, they sent into all that region round about, and brought unto him all that were sick, 36 and they besought him that they might only touch the border of his garment: and as many as touched were made whole.

Everybody in the region was a candidate for healing, all those that were sick and all those that asked.

Luke 22:50-51 And a certain one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and struck off his right ear.51 But Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye them thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.

Everything we know about Malchus says he was an enemy of Christ, but yet Jesus chose to heal him knowing full well it would not change his own fate on the cross.

Matthew 15:21-28 And Jesus went out thence, and withdrew into the parts of Tyre and Sidon.22 And behold, a Canaanitish woman came out from those borders, and cried, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a demon.23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.24 But he answered and said, I was not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.25 But she came and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.26 And he answered and said, It is not right to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs.27 But she said, Yea, Lord: for even the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it done unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was healed from that hour.

The Syrophenician people were the descendants of the Canaanites, a wicked and idolatrous people that were supposed to be destroyed and driven out of the promise land in the Old Testament because of their wicked practices. The Syrophenician woman's statement "we can eat the crumbs from the children's table" was a statement of her belief in Jesus healing power that not only did he have the power to heal but that the healing he offered his people could be for her (the gentiles) as well. It was her faith combined with Jesus compassionate nature that moved him to heal her daughter. If Jesus was willing to heal a woman that was not in covenant to receive anything from him (Christ) and was a direct enemy of His chosen people, how much more will He be willing to heal those who believe in Him, His in-grafted children? To say that Jesus no longer heals ignores his compassionate nature. God's nature is unchanging for all eternity, if he had mercy on us then, he will have mercy on us now.

All of these people were candidates for miraculous healing. Location, region, and relationship were secondary to Jesus compassionate nature to heal. Any theology that believes healing is not for today robs us of the Bible's promises of prosperity for our lives, it turns God into a liar. It also ignores God's compassionate heart to heal. One of the main thrusts of the bible is to be a guide for prosperous living. The other is to give us insight; primarily into Jesus nature and character as well as the nature and character of the saints. Jesus is our foremost example of how we should live. Alternately we may look to the Disciples of Christ to get a further glimpse of what God expects us to do while awaiting his return.

Mark 16:16-18 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned. 17 and these signs shall accompany them that believe: in my name shall they cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall in no wise hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

If we are disciples in Christ, and the New Testament disciples are our examples, our behavior should mimic theirs. We must do what they did. Two of the things the disciples did were preach the gospel and heal the sick. Is healing for today? I firmly believe so. But just like salvation, one must make the personal choice to believe in healing for themselves. If you don't want to believe healing is for today then you don't have to; but know that all you end up doing is cutting yourself off from receiving God's healing power in your life. Does disbelief (in healing) jeopardize ones salvation? No, but I do believe it hinders one's ability to walk in total victory. If we want to experience God's healing power, we must wholly reject the idea that healing is not for our generation.

The Disciples authority.

We see from scripture that Jesus clearly held authority to heal the sick. Jesus disciples were direct witnesses to his ability to take dominion over not only demons but sickness as well. Jesus told his disciples that all authority had been given to him, and then he gave very specific commands to his followers (ref. Matthew 28:18-19). If Jesus had been given all authority, then those to whom He issued commands to perform certain tasks, by extension have received *delegated* authority.

What this means is that Jesus disciples were given the authority to carry out their assignments under the great commission. Furthermore we today as followers of Jesus have received this same delegated authority. By going to the cross Jesus secured all power. He took the back the authority that satan had stolen from the man Adam. After Jesus ascended into heaven He made His disciples and followers responsible for carrying out His ministry (See Luke 9:1-2 / Matthew 10:1-8).

As disciples, when we go out to fulfill the great commission we go in His (Jesus) name! That is we go with His authority backing our efforts because He has commissioned us to go. The very definition of commission is: "The act of granting certain powers or the authority to carry out a particular task or duty". As Christians we occupy a position of authority delegated to us by God through His son Jesus Christ. This is a part of our inheritance in Jesus.

A disciple is one who follows. If we are followers of Christ we have received Jesus delegated authority to carry out His work. In the context of healing this means that we can take authority over sickness and infirmity, lay hands on the sick and by faith see people healed and set free.

With our authority also comes a position of responsibility. Jesus has commissioned His disciples to do a great work in the world. Jesus has given us the authority to perform this great task and so it falls to all Christians everywhere to “go” and “do” the will of the one who has commanded us (ref. Luke 9:1-2). It is on this basis that we will be judged. Ones with authority will move past mere prayers of petition; merely *asking* God to heal, and begin to use their authority to *command* healing and deliverance in Jesus name. By doing so we honor the Father and affirm the Holy Spirits work within and through us.

Taking authority over sickness is an all too often disregarded function of Christian ministry. Even still one cannot allow the potential of failure to overshadow their calling to heal. While remaining sensitive to the leadings of the Holy Spirit we have the freedom and the duty to heal in Jesus name. We must step out in faith and accomplish that which our Lord requires of us!

Action Steps.

Thus far we have received revelation of what sickness is and its origins, both natural and spiritual. Furthermore we have exposed common misconceptions regarding sickness that only serve to keep people in bondage and prevent Disciples of Christ from exercising their authority and dominion over the works of darkness. These revelations must cause us to take account of our role as disciples. Have we been attempting to fulfill God’s will as it relates to divine healing or have we turned a blind eye to those in bondage to sickness? For some these concepts may have been previously foreign. Whatever our position in this is – we are now facing a crossroad. Will we fulfill God’s will or will we turn away? If these revelations convict our spirit then our next steps must be ones of action. These actions must become our moral imperative. They have to become the “thing we must do” without hesitation or turning back.

Take note of the following action steps we can take that will usher us into God’s divine healing ministry as Disciples of Christ.

1. Availability.

Experience shows that many believers fail to allow God’s healing power to flow through them simply because they have failed to make themselves available to God. Far too many professing believers are hiding within the walls of their churches. They never go out and engage the culture with a deliberate motivation to heal. We must remember that in many cases Jesus approached those in need of healing more than the sick came to him. We are not above our master. If we assume that the sick will always come to us we will see little fruit in our healing ministry. We must have the attitude of Isaiah when he declared “here am I, send me” (Isa. 6:8-9). One must be willing to place their faith in the power of God and His ability to work through them. Fear of the potential of failure must not hold us back from pursuing Christ’s commission to heal the sick.

2. Compassion.

When Jesus healed He did so out of compassion for the sick and hurting (Matt. 20:34 / Mark 1:41). Christ has set the standard for one's attitude toward the sick. A true disciple cannot escape this attitude of the heart if they are to move into any kind of healing ministry. Also let us not confuse genuine compassion with mere sympathy. There is a distinct difference between the two. Sympathy is feeling sorry for someone's unfortunate circumstance while feeling no compulsion to take action toward changing their situation. Christ-like compassion not only is concerned for one's circumstance (sickness) but is moved to take action in an effort to alleviate the situation. The Christian disciple must be "moved with compassion" toward anyone they minister to. Disciples do not heal to gain glory for themselves or to promote their "ministry". Disciples heal because they have a heart like their master which is pained at the sight of anyone who suffers. Our compassion will always lead us to take action – that is to put ourselves in a position for God to work *through* us for the benefit of others. Lastly, compassionate action requires that we move beyond fear and beyond the *potential* of failure. If people, for whom Christ gave his life for are sick, hurting or in bondage we disciples must do what we know to be right in God's eyes. Namely using our faith and authority to see them healed for no other reason than that God desires their wholeness.

Receiving the power to heal.

As a final point in our study of divine healing we must look at the source of our power to heal. In and of ourselves we can do nothing. Yet in the same manner that we receive Christ's delegated authority we also receive His power. Just like authority, power only comes through relationship and relationship is cultivated in time spent with our Lord. God's manifest presence carries His power with it. It is in His presence that we are changed and His glory is revealed. Experience has taught that apart from Christ our human efforts do little. If a professing disciple attempts to operate in healing ministry; working from the foundation of intellectual knowledge *only*, then they will see little fruit in their ministries. There are no "*formulas*" or "*keys*" to operating successfully in divine healing for if there were then any success would be based upon man's power which would ultimately steal God's glory. On the contrary to see genuine God glorifying fruit in any healing ministry requires a deep and committed connectedness to our Lord.

A disciple can believe in God's power to heal, have no areas of major sin in their life, position themselves naturally and spiritually to be used by God, be motivated by compassion desiring only God's will and yet be completely devoid of healing power due to a lack of spending time in the presence of God. A disciple's life is all about relationship. And this relationship is developed by spending time in the presence of God. Time in His presence begins when we position ourselves to give Him worship, to pray and seek Him. When we are in His presence we become saturated with His Spirit - the Holy Spirit. It is by the power of the Spirit that we are able to heal. When we cultivate an environment (a worshipful atmosphere) that is welcoming to the Holy Spirit, God's presence fills our lives. We can then "carry" His presence; the more of His presence we "carry" the more of His power we will have. Our relationship with God becomes deepened and strengthened as we show ourselves trustworthy of receiving His power to heal.

A disciple must remember that God's presence is their source of power. Walking in intimacy with the Father and possessing a life grounded by His word are essential to having His divine power flow through us. The further one strays from *The* power source the weaker they become spiritually which will directly affect their ability to heal those in need.

Conclusion.

We have intended to bring some revelation as to what encompasses divine healing. We have seen that sickness, while being a natural reality often has a spiritual side which is often overlooked. We have also seen how the enemy of our souls perpetuates doctrines that only serve to mask this spiritual reality – leaving sickness unchallenged.

Furthermore we have briefly shown that it is disciples of Jesus who have been given the authority, responsibility, and power to subdue sickness on a natural and spiritual basis.

And so this brings us to a crossroads of choice; choice to take personal action in pursuing God's will in this area, or the choice to abandon our part in God's healing ministry. This is no small decision for it has the potential to alter our very lives. We believe that one part of the next great move of God will be what is commonly called "*the saints healing movement*". We believe that God will raise up Disciples of Christ who will walk in His power to heal. These will not be *professional* ministers, but everyday people who carry the presence of the Father wherever they go and are able to perform His mighty works. Just as all have the potential to follow Christ, so do all have the potential to operate in healing ministry!

As a fellow disciple of Christ let me encourage you to take the high road of divine healing ministry! As a disciple think not on the possibility of success or failure in this endeavor. But think only on being obedient to the will of Him who has sent us.

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